

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 100935Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5741

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 6233

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO NEGOTIATIONS: PROTOCOL SIGNATURE FORSEEN FOR
THIS WEEK

SUMMARY: ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT LAO PROTOCOL IS NOW
SUPPORTED BY NEARLY ALL KEY FIGURES ON RLG SIDE AND WILL
BE SIGNED THIS WEEK. ACTION REQUESTED: WE NEED FINAL
APPROVED TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO
SOUVANNA. END SUMMARY

1. AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOMENTS
OF ELATION AND SEVERE DISAPPOINTMENTS, I AM LEERY OF
PREDICTING A PRECISE DATE FOR THE SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL.
HOWEVER, ON THE BASIS OF ALL INDICATIONS, I BELIEVE THE
PROTOCOL WILL BE SIGNED SOMETIME THIS WEEK. I AM SEEING
PRIME MINISTER LATER IN THE DAY TO FIND OUT WHAT DATE HE
HAS SET FOR THE CEREMONY. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT HE
TOLD PRESS SEPTEMBER 7 THAT IT WAS VERY POSSIBLE THAT
PROTOCOL WILL BE SIGNED THIS WEEK (VIENTIANE 6200).

2. FAR GENERALS MET AGAIN ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, WITH
THE LPF MILITARY. THIS WAS SECOND MEETING BETWEEN THESE
TWO GROUPS TO CLARIFY MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE PROTOCOL.
THE SUNDAY MEETING WAS AGAIN VERY CORDIAL AND WAS
ATTENDED, IN ADDITION TO FAR GENERALS, BY MINISTER OF
DEFENSE SISOUK. I UNDERSTAND THAT NO MILITARY PROBLEMS
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WERE DISCUSSED AT THAT MEETING BUT THAT THE TWO SIDES
REVIEWED SOME OF THE FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRA-
TIVE PROBLEMS FACING THE KINGDOM.

3. FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 6 MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO MILITARY GROUPS, THE FAR GENERALS HAD SENT AN EMISSARY TO TELL NGON SANANIKONE, LEUAM INSIENGMAI AND SISOUK THAT THEY ARE SUPPORTING THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS DETERMINATION TO SIGN THE PROTOCOL SHORTLY. THIS ACTION WAS IN ADDITION TO THE CALL OF THE THREE KEY GENERALS ON SOUVANNA ON SEPTEMBER 7 REPORTED VIENTIANE 6216 APPRISING SOUVANNA OF THEIR LOYALTY AND SUPPORT FOR HIS POLICY. AS OF MORNING SEPTEMBER 10, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE ONLY KEY LAO PERSONALITY WHO IS NOT YET ON BOARD IS NGON SANANIKONE BUT HE IS ISOLATED IN HIS OPPOSITION TO SOUVANNA AND HE MAY STILL COME AROUND DURING NEXT 24 HOURS.

4. I CALLED ON SISOUK EARLY THIS MORNING TO GAUGE HIS POSITION ON THE SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL. HE SAID THAT NOW THAT THE MILITARY ARE IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, HE ALSO WILL SUPPORT THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE CABINET MEETING TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 11. I SAID THAT I WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE HE ALSO WAS ABLE TO SUPPORT THE PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE LATTER LOOKS TO SISOUK TO GIVE STRONG LEADERSHIP TO THE NON-COMMUNIST SIDE IN THE ERA WHICH IS ABOUT TO OPEN. I TOLD HIM THAT SISOUK'S POSITION IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT PROBABLY AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE WOULD FACILITATE OUR WORKING WITH FAR.

5. WITH PROSPECTS OF SIGNING CEREMONY SOMETIME THIS WEEK, I BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR ME TO HAVE PRECISE WORDING OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S LETTER TO SOUVANNA TO BE DELIVERED FOLLOWING PROTOCOL SIGNATURE. ACCORDING TO STATE 193704, FIRST PAGE OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER "IS BEING REDONE." I RECEIVED LAST WEEK ORIGINAL OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND HAD RECEIVED EARLIER TELEGRAPHIC TEXT IN STATE 168984. UPON RECEIPT OF LATTER, I MADE INFORMAL FRENCH TRANSLATION OF THAT LETTER SINCE SOUVANNA IS AUTHORIZED TO RELEASE TEXT HERE IN ADDITION TO RELEASE IN WASHINGTON (STATE 168984). I SHOULD ADD THAT ID HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOWN ORIGINAL VERSION OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER INFORMALLY WHEN I SAW HIM IN LUANG PRABANG (VIENTIANE 6012). IF CHANGES ARE TO BE MADE, I WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THEM BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM SO THAT LETTER IS READY FOR DELIVERY AFTER PROTOCOL SIGNATURE.
DEAN

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 SEP 1973
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